

## The Effect of Cow Udder Score on Cow/Calf Performance in the Nebraska Sandhills (TAS)

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### Funding:

Objective: Evaluate the effect of beef cow udder score on cow performance and pre- and post-weaning progeny performance.

Results: Cow BW at prebreeding and weaning was greater ( $P < 0.01$ ) in BU cows compared with GU counterparts. Calf BW at birth ( $P = 0.95$ ), weaning ( $P = 0.40$ ), and adjusted 205-d BW ( $P = 0.28$ ) were not different between udder groups. Cow udder score did not influence feedlot entry ( $P = 0.41$ ) and final BW ( $P = 0.30$ ), DMI ( $P = 0.53$ ), ADG ( $P = 0.60$ ), and G:F ( $P = 0.85$ ) of steer progeny. However, steers from GU dams had greater HCW ( $P = 0.04$ ) and backfat ( $P = 0.02$ ) compared with BU counterparts.

Table 1. Effect of cow udder score on cow performance

Item	Treatments <sup>1</sup>		SEM	P - value
	BU	GU		
Pre-breeding				
BW (kg)	450	428	4.9	<0.0001
BCS	5.3	5.2	0.04	0.01
Weaning				
BW (kg)	458	441	5	< 0.0001
BCS	5.1	5.4	1.2	0.75
Pregnancy rates, %	83.2	86.9	0.04	0.35

<sup>1</sup>Treatments are BU (udder score of 1 or 2) and GU (udder score of 3 or 4)

Table 2. Effect of cow udder score on calf growth to weaning

Item	Treatments <sup>1</sup>		SEM	P - value
	BU	GU		
Birth BW (kg)	32	32	0.5	0.95
Weaning BW(kg)	204	202	3	0.40
Adj. 205 d BW(kg)	154	156	3	0.28

<sup>1</sup>Treatments are BU (udder score of 1 or 2) and GU (udder score of 3 or 4).

Table 3. Effect of cow udder score on steer progeny feedlot performance

Item	Treatments <sup>1</sup>		SEM	P - value
	BU	GU		
Entry BW (kg)	269	276	8	0.41
Final BW(kg)	617	628	10	0.30
DMI (kg)	12.5	12.3	0.25	0.53
ADG (kg)	1.67	1.70	0.03	0.60
G:F (kg/kg)	0.14	0.14	0.003	0.85

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<sup>1</sup>Treatments are BU (udder score of 1 or 2) and GU (udder score of 3 or 4).

Table 4. Effect of cow udder score on steer progeny carcass traits

Item	Treatments <sup>1</sup>		SEM	<i>P</i> - value
	BU	GU		
HCW (kg)	375	389	7	0.04
Yield grade	2.3	2.7	0.20	0.10
LM area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	89.7	90.9	1.87	0.63
Marbling score	454.5	461.2	23.2	0.85
Backfat (cm)	1.27	1.45	0.08	0.02

<sup>1</sup>Treatments are BU (udder score of 1 or 2) and GU (udder score of 3 or 4).